



STATE
SENATOR
Wayne Kuipers
30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Kuipers' Proposal to Help Ensure Children are Properly Secured while Traveling

The Senate is considering legislation introduced by Senator Kuipers that would help protect children when they're riding in vehicles. The legislation would add to the fine when someone previously ticketed for violating Michigan's child-restraint law is again cited. The fine would go from \$10 to \$100 for people who fail to properly restrain a child younger than 16. The funds raised from the fine increase would be dedicated to buying car-safety seats for low-income families.

Related legislation that is being considered by the Legislature would require all children older than four to ride in a booster seat until they turn eight or grow to at least 4 feet, 9 inches tall, whichever comes first.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children up to age 15 according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 children younger than 15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

Teachers Could Purchase Service Credits

Legislation that would allow public school employees to purchase service credits for service performed while teaching on a military base recently passed unanimously out of the Michigan State Senate. Senate Bill 180 would amend the Public School Employees Retirement Act to allow individuals beginning October 1, 2005 to purchase service credits for work performed as a teacher at a military base before January 31, 1991. Individuals who taught on a United States military base before 1991 had an opportunity between 1989 and 1991 to receive service credits for the work performed. However, after passage of the Michigan Public School Retirement Act, teaching years on a military base were no longer recognized towards retirement in Michigan.

Senate Restricts Sale of Cold Medicine

Legislation passed the Senate on Thursday that would restrict the sale of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine at pharmacies and grocery stores. Under Senate Bill (SB) 189, all stores that prescribe drugs with pseudoephedrine as the sole active ingredient would only be allowed to sell two packages a day, with exceptions for liquids and pediatric products. Buyers would have to show photo I.D., be 18 years or older and sign a log with name, address and purchase information. Products included in the legislation would have to be kept behind a counter or within 20 feet of a counter. A sign would be posted stating the law.

Restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine is designed to curb the production of the illegal and dangerous drug methamphetamine. Because meth cannot be made without ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, lawmakers anticipate seeing an immediate and significant drop in meth labs across the state once this legislation is enacted. SB 189 is based on a similar law in Oklahoma. Officials there have seen a 70-percent drop in methamphetamine production and meth lab seizures. A similar bill to Oklahoma's is also being pushed in the United States Congress.